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RIGOROUS WEATHER NOW STAYING STRIFE

But Artillery Duel in the Vosges Mountains May Prove One of the Big Operations of the War

GAINS IN EITHER DIRECTION HAVE BEEN SMALL

By All Accounts Saloniki is Now Safe—75,000 Serbians Have Reformed in Albania—Montenegrin Army is Now Ready to Throw Itself Energetically Against the Austrians—Most Severe Part of the Winter Has Begun in Russia and It is Doubtful if Any Serious Events Will Occur Before the End of January.

London, Dec. 29, 10.15 a. m.—Despatches from both east and west express the belief that the winter weather is likely to prove the most severe obstacle to operations on the principal fronts during the next few weeks. The most dreaded period of winter is from the end of December to the end of January. "A French general's reply a year ago to the demands for a general offensive. The same remark would probably apply equally this year. "Reuter's correspondent at western headquarters after remarking that the British staff is confident that the allies now are so strong in men and munitions that they can break through the German lines whenever the right time comes, declares that the weather is the chief reason for postponing the big movement. "Such a weather movement needs careful planning and extreme caution. Rolling up tactics always involve the possibility of counter attacks which may be held in the essential quick movements of artillery without which any big offensive is foredoomed to fail. "The allied troops would probably have little trouble in occupying the greater part of the German front trenches forthwith, because the enemy holds these trenches in the winter the ranges registered to a nicety from myriads of aerial and machine guns such a step would be sheer suicide until the opportunity is given. "A Russian correspondent writes: "The most severe part of winter has begun in the Russian theatre. All reports agree that the weather this year is harder than usual. It is increasingly doubtful if any serious events will occur until the end of January. "Despite the weather the duel in the Vosges mountains in the western zone continues and may eventually prove to be one of the big operations of the war. The gains in either direction thus far have been small, but the French claim progress in their effort to establish themselves on the crest of the foothills, which here dominate the plain. "By all accounts Saloniki is now safe. Certainly the central powers show no haste to attack the allies' position. Seventy-five thousand Serbians have reformed at Scutari and Elbasan, in Albania and the Montenegrin army, which heretofore has been decimated geographically from taking any large part in the war, is now throwing it self energetically into the contest against the Austrians. "Reports that the Austrians are attacking Scutari are authoritative. The Montenegrins are not yet ready to meet the Austrians at Belgrade, where they were recently repulsed by the Montenegrins and cannot reach Scutari without crossing the Albanian Alps and the flooded river Drina. "No official announcement is yet available in London as to the decision of the cabinet in favor of compulsion, but the political atmosphere has been considerably cleared by the admission that the principle of compulsion is accepted by a majority of the members of the cabinet. Public opinion has not yet crystallized but there is a feeling that the public is quite ready to be convinced. "The difficulties within which the cabinet may be expected to diminish as the question shapes itself in practical form. "A joint meeting of the representatives of the labor party and the federation of trade unions has been summoned for tomorrow and a detailed statement of the labor attitude is likely to follow.

EXPLANATION OF BRITISH CABINET SITUATION.

United on Question of Compulsory Service For Single Men. London, Dec. 29, 11.51 a. m.—The following explanation of the cabinet situation will appear in the newspapers of London tomorrow morning. "It has been generally expected that Premier Asquith's pledge to married men would be carried out in letter and spirit, but the fact that the weather not only to carry through an honorable obligation but also it was needed, in the present state of the war, to provide a steady flow of reinforcements for the various battle fronts. "On the question of compulsory service for single men, with reservations to later stages of the war, in reserved occupations, there is no difference in principle within the cabinet. "The details of the procedure are being worked out. There is no expectation of personal changes in the administration. It is recognized, however, that to pass the present state of the war, the present state of single men and to set up a general obligation to military service in the part of the adult population would involve difficulties.

BODY OF MISSING GIRL FOUND IN VACANT LOT

Miss Margaret Curtiss of Greenwich, Aged 19 Years. Greenwich, Conn., Dec. 29.—The body of Miss Margaret Curtiss, 19 years old, who disappeared from the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julian W. Curtiss during last night, was found today in a vacant lot near her house. She had not been in the best of health and it is believed that she wandered from her room and died from exposure in the storm. She was fully dressed. "Miss Curtiss had been attending a private school near Westbrook, Mass., and was visiting her parents during the holidays. An autopsy will be performed tomorrow.

OBITUARY.

John F. Conniff. Hartford, Conn., Dec. 29.—John F. Conniff, deputy building inspector for several years, died at his home in the city of Hartford, where he was taken ill two weeks ago and in the midst of his illness it was found necessary to perform an operation for an abscess. His case was critical from the start. Edwin Hall. Hartford, Dec. 29.—Edwin Hall, said to be the inventor of a device for fixing clothes in robes, died in a hospital here tonight after a long illness, aged 26. He was a former resident of Bridgeport and the body will be taken to that city for burial. He leaves two sons, George and Charles S., of Bridgeport.

Cabled Paragraphs

Army Officers of Portugal Meet. Paris, Dec. 29, 5.20 p. m.—A long and important meeting in secret of the principal army officers of Portugal is reported by newspapers of Lisbon, says the Havas correspondent there. The ministers of war and marine attended the conference. Kaiser Has Boil. London, Dec. 29, 4.10 a. m.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Amsterdam says reports received there from Berlin are that Emperor William is suffering from a non-infectious boil. He is remaining indoors owing to the unsettled weather, but is not confined to bed.

CONVICTS MUTINY IN KANSAS PENITENTIARY

Fifty Were Placed in Solitary Confinement as Result. Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 29.—Fifty convicts of the Kansas state penitentiary were placed in solitary confinement today charged with being ringleaders in a mutiny yesterday in the prison. The mutiny broke out in the morning. According to Warden I. K. Coddling, virtually all the 300 convicts at work in the mines had a part in the disturbance. A number of guards had been captured by the mutineers armed with picks the prisoners were taken to the cell block and placed in solitary confinement. Then the mutineers were taken to the cell block and placed in solitary confinement. The mutiny was not known above ground until Prof. C. R. Grider of the mining and engineering school of the University of Kansas, a party of 12 students, descended into the mine on a tour of inspection. As soon as the case stopped at the bottom of the shaft Prof. Grider and the students were seized by the convicts and held. The convicts were taken to the cell block and placed in solitary confinement. The mutineers were taken to the cell block and placed in solitary confinement. The mutineers were taken to the cell block and placed in solitary confinement.

BRITISH SEIZURE OF NEUTRAL MAILS

Prompted by Desire to Recover Belgian and French Securities. Washington, Dec. 29.—Unofficially received today at the state department is the report that recent seizures by Great Britain of neutral mails in transit to the United States from Europe were prompted chiefly by a desire to recover Belgian and French securities confiscated by German military authorities. Such papers, of high commercial value, it was said, have been sent from German sources to this country to be sold, the use of Switzerland and Holland being used for their movement. "The state department has asked Great Britain for a statement of facts concerning interference with mails. Ambassador Page at London and the British ambassador at Washington are expected to forward information on the subject.

GARRISON IS PLANNING HIS MILITARY PROGRAMME.

Giving Over the Entire Holiday Week to the Task. Washington, Dec. 29.—Secretary Garrison, in seclusion at his home in New Jersey, is giving over the entire holiday week to preparation for the task of all things military. He is planning a military programme, when Congress reconvenes Tuesday, which will include a full scale, figures and armaments in support of his plans. "When Mr. Garrison left Washington he took with him a copy of a preliminary report and official document bearing on the preparedness problem. He believes, it was asserted tonight by an official who had been in contact with him, that the plan, that a correct statement of the problem can lead only to the general conclusions embodied in the continental army scheme.

PRESIDENT AND WIFE CAUGHT IN SUDDEN STORM.

White House Automobile Toop Them, Dripping, Back to the Hotel. Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 29.—Related to the White House, President and Mrs. Wilson, who were on a tour of the Hot Springs, were caught in a sudden storm. A White House automobile took them, dripping, back to the hotel.

FCRD PARTY TO DRAFT TENTATIVE PEACE PLANS

Which Will Be Submitted to the Warring Nations. Stockholm, via London, Dec. 29, 2.22 a. m.—The members of the Ford expedition have definitely decided that as soon as possible tentative peace plans will be drawn up and submitted to the warring nations. Ten verses in international law will be employed for guidance on technical points. "Should the first effort of the peace plan be rejected or ignored by the nations, the plans will be modified and repeatedly offered until persistence attracts attention.

SIXTY CHINESE TO TAKE SEAMAN EXAMINATION.

Under Provisions of the La Follette Act—First of Their Race. San Francisco, Calif., Dec. 29.—Sixty Chinese members of the crew of the China Mail liner China expect to take the examination of the La Follette Act. They are the first of their race to take this test, although nearly 2,000 men of other nationalities have already been granted certificates.

British Aviator Killed.

Portsmouth, Eng., Dec. 29, 9 p. m.—Lieutenant Rogers of the Royal Flying corps was killed today when his aeroplane, which was flying at a low altitude, suddenly tilted forward and plunged to the earth.

Storm Was of Short Duration

BUT IT SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED WIRE CONNECTIONS IN EAST AND SOUTH

Storm Signals Ordered Down on the Atlantic Coast Except on the New England Coast. Washington, Dec. 29.—The storm that disrupted wire communication today throughout the eastern and southern states was over tonight. Reports to the weather bureau indicated that its center had passed to sea over the New England coast and the weather was clearing. The storm signals were ordered down except on the New England coast.

HEAVY RAINFALL IN NORTHERN GEORGIA.

Slightly Less Than Four Inches in Twenty-four Hours. Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 29.—The heaviest rain since 1894 was recorded here for the 24 hours ending at 7 o'clock this morning. The average rainfall for the 24 hours over the entire northern section of Georgia was slightly less than four inches, weather bureau officials said.

STORM CAME FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

Started Tuesday Night in Texas and Louisiana. Chicago, Dec. 29.—Meager reports received by the local weather bureau concerning the storm which, starting last night in Texas and Louisiana, spread today to the north, showed that the front of the storm, so far as the central west is concerned, was borne by Ohio and Kentucky. The storm was said to be moving westward, the sun shone brightly in Chicago.

HALF A FOOT OF SNOW IN YORK STATE.

Country Roads in Northern Section Are Impassable. Troy, N. Y., Dec. 29.—The third big snow storm of the winter reached the Rensselaer county today. Tonight six inches of snow had fallen and country roads were impassable. The depth of snow was from two to four inches in Troy to three and a half feet in the outlying districts. The storm continued tonight but was without the usual accompaniment of its predecessors.

WIRE COMMUNICATION PROSTRATED IN OHIO.

Steam and Electric Railroad Transportation Hampered. Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 29.—A storm coming with it, sleet, rain and snow, held Ohio in its grasp today. The means of wire communication were prostrated for the most part and steam and electric railroad transportation was badly impeded.

STORM WAS SEVERE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

For a Stretch of Forty Miles All Poles Were Down or Leaning. Pittsburgh, Penn., Dec. 29.—Heavy drifts of men and materials were sent from Pittsburgh late today in answer to calls for help from the storm ridden east. The Bell Telephone company had a special train with linemen and engineers for Philadelphia, where the Pennsylvania and the railroad it could find in this vicinity. "Reports from the railroad here indicated that for forty miles between Christiana and Atglen almost every pole was down or leaning dangerously. The poles were leaning in all directions. A pole was left standing. All poles on the north side of the Harrisburg yards went down and half for miles on the south side were not considered safe.

"GENERAL" COXEY TO RUN FOR SENATOR.

Has Outlined Campaign As an Independent Candidate. Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 29.—"General" Jacob S. Coxey, wealthy manufacturer of Massillon, Ohio, who led the "Army of the Commonweath" to Washington in 1894, outlined today plans for his campaign as an independent candidate for United States senator from Ohio to succeed Senator Pomeroy next year. He said he would run on a platform demanding that congress authorize issue of \$1,000,000,000 legal tender currency, half of which is to be used in creating a merchant marine, and half for naval equipment of coast defenses.

VILLA SAID TO HAVE SAILED FOR HAVANA.

Story Published in a New Orleans Paper the Authority. New Orleans, La., Dec. 29.—That General Francisco Villa, the Mexican revolutionary leader had arrived in New Orleans last night from El Paso and was hurried across the city to the steamship Excelsior, which later sailed for Havana was the story published in a local afternoon paper and credited to a friend of the Villa family who arrived here last night from Juarez. "All efforts to confirm the story were unavailing.

Movement of Steamships.

Bordeaux, Dec. 28.—Arrived: Steamship Espagne, New York. Mayor Carl H. Keller of Toledo, O., was indicted for accepting a bribe.

Five Slain with an Axe at Bethel

SLAYER, A NEGRO, THEN TOOK FATAL DOSE OF POISON. Jealousy Ascribed as Reason for Killing His Wife, Two Young Stepdaughters and a Brother-in-law. Bethel, Conn., Dec. 29.—William Arthur Steele, colored, tonight killed his wife, two step-daughters and his brother-in-law, Littleton Riley, with an axe and the committed suicide by drinking poison. The murders took place in Steele's home in Milwaukee avenue. He is said to have been jealous of his wife and the police believe that he killed her and the others while temporarily insane.

Evidence of Desperate Struggle.

The house gave evidences of a desperate struggle having taken place. One door was smashed in, apparently with an axe. The blood-stained weapon was found in one of the rooms. From all appearances, Riley, who was 15 years old, was killed while trying to protect Mrs. Steele. She was found in the bedroom, with her throat cut and her head battered. The body of Riley was found on the floor near by. The bodies of Steele's step-daughters, Hannah and Winnie, Hubbell, aged 5 and 6 years old, respectively, were found wrapped in bed clothes in the bedroom. The bodies of the house. All the bodies were mutilated.

Appeared Rational.

The crimes were committed apparently late in the afternoon. Afterwards Steele, to all outward appearances as rational as ever, failed to do much more than walk about the way with a knife in his hand. He said he had nothing unusual about Steele. He said he asked him where he was going this winter (to work) and Steele said, "I am going below. Next time you hear from me you will remember what I say."

Swallowed Poison.

According to the police theory, Steele went to his home and swallowed the poison. A neighbor, F. W. Perry, heard a noise at his front door tonight and found Steele on the steps, groaning. He took him into the house and summoned medical aid, when Steele told him that it would be best to get a physician for his family, as they were all very sick. The police are investigating the disclosure of the tragedy.

GROUP MEETINGS OF PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS.

Cecider Means of Binding All Americans "One for All, and All for One." Washington, Dec. 29.—At virtually every session of the many groups into which the Pan-American scientific congress is divided, scientific discussions are held. The delegates are bound by a pledge of silence. The delegates are bound by a pledge of silence. The delegates are bound by a pledge of silence.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS AS POLLING PLACES.

Their Use Advocated at Session of American Civic Association. Washington, Dec. 29.—Every school building in the United States was pictured as a potential town hall at today's session of the American Civic Association, at which Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of President Wilson, presided. Miss Wilson described the school as a place where a plan to make each school building, now idle 15 hours or more each day, the meeting and voting place of citizens of the neighborhood and city or town. The idea that it was proposed to make the school social centers for public entertainment or to throw them open for whatever public organization might for the moment.

MALADY AMONG CHILDREN Baffles Boston Physicians.

Seven Deaths Believed to Be Due to New Form of Influenza. Boston, Mass., Dec. 29.—A mysterious malady which has baffled definite diagnosis by medical authorities had claimed seven victims among infants in greater Boston tonight. An increasing number of children were reported as suffering from the same disease. Medical Examiner George B. Masague, after performing an autopsy on the body of one of the children tonight said that he believed the illness to be a new form of influenza, but that until chemical analysis of the stomach of the child was made, he could not say to the knowledge of the case. "A disease" given as the cause of death in each case, was more a mystery than a cause, he stated. He was inclined to disagree with early medical opinions that the deaths were due to eating poisoned candy.

Held For Murder of HER 5-YEAR-OLD WARD.

Elizabeth B. Cannon of Springfield Indicted by Grand Jury. Springfield, Mass., Dec. 29.—Elizabeth B. Cannon was indicted by the grand jury today charged with the murder in Russell of her five year old ward, Lucille M. Thomas, Nov. 11. It is charged that Miss Cannon killed the little girl by drugs and then set the house on fire in an effort to conceal the crime.

Condensed Telegrams

Pacific coast wheat prices are advancing steadily. King Victor Emmanuel is reported to have been wounded in battle. A heavy gale swept the British coasts. Several ships are missing. The Anaconda Copper Mining Co. declared a quarterly dividend of \$1.50 a share. Col. Robert Townsend, who served on the staff of Grover Cleveland, died at Oyster Bay. Germany and Austria have reached an agreement defining their governing spheres in Poland. A seat on the New York Cotton Exchange sold for \$12.50, a decline of \$2.50 from the last sale. The American Association of Anatomists held its 32nd annual convention at Yale University. Construction of the new \$3,000,000 sugar refinery at Port Wentworth, Ga., will be started immediately. C. C. Howard was appointed assistant general passenger agent of the New York Central Railroad. Cable communication with Dutch Guiana via Hayti was restored by the Postal Telegraph-Cable Co. Bringing \$3,930,000 in gold, the American line steamer from New York arrived at New York from Liverpool. Prince Hohenlohe Schillingfurst, oldest son of the late German chancellor, is dead. He was 63 years of age. Cash payment on the third German war loan amounted to 11,111,100,000 marks, or 91.4 per cent, on Dec. 23. Senator Charles O. Hennessy, of New Jersey, has entered the race for the Democratic nomination for governor. American Red Cross officials believe that Great Britain will remove the embargo of Red Cross supplies to Germany. A wireless station is being constructed at Honolulu to connect the United States and Japan by wireless telephony. Philadelphia manufacturers are purchasing all available coal in preparation of a strike of miners expected early in 1916. An order for 10,000 tons of steel rails was placed with the Illinois Steel Co., by the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad. Freight traffic through the American and Canadian canals during the season just closed amounted to more than 11,250,394 tons. Beginning Jan. 1, no more gold tip cigarettes will be obtainable in Germany, owing to the government's action to conserve gold. King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, Crown Prince Boris, and a German Prince are reported to be en route to Montenegro, Serbia, traveling incognito. Miners, representatives and officials of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co., convened in the first annual meeting under the Rockefeller industrial plan. Secretary of the Navy Daniels opposes a request of Senator Phelan, of California, that a naval academy be established on the Pacific Coast. Officials of the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co., Cincinnati, have received an order for 9,000,000 glass flasks from England. When Eugene Robinson, of Yonkers, 24 years old, was arrested for begging, \$177 in cash and bank books showing deposits of \$2,500 were found on him. One hundred wealthy Hindu ranchers in the Tulare California district have organized to raise funds to help finance a revolution, against British rule in India. The embargo on potatoes passing between Canada and the United States on account of the existence of the disease known as powdery scab has been lifted by mutual agreement. Police Sergeant Alexander Anderson of the Old 81 station, New York, plunged into the East River and rescued August Nelson, a sailor, who had fallen into the river while sleeping. Becoming angry and dependent when rejected by his sweetheart, Viola Deverick, Herman E. Pensek, aged 25, shot and slightly injured the girl at her home in New York and then committed suicide. Instructions were sent to all customs officers by the Secretary of the Treasury ordering them to cooperate with naval officers in preventing violations of American neutrality in wireless communications. French Senate Sends GREETINGS TO ALLIED ARMIES Also Agreed to Accept Income Tax Bill Passed by Deputies. Paris, Dec. 29, 6.55 p. m.—The senate today agreed to accept the income tax bill as it was passed by the chamber of deputies yesterday. Before adjourning to January 11, the senate sent to the French and allied armies and their chiefs its greetings and expressions of confidence and hope. The chamber of deputies sent similar greetings to the French and allied armies and their chiefs its greetings and expressions of confidence and hope. The idea of this department is to centralize all operations regarding the furnishing of stocks for public and private industries and those working for the national defense and to control domestic consumption.

Warrants Issued in Conspiracy Case

FOR CONGRESSMAN FRANK BUCHANAN AND THREE OTHERS ARE TO RESIST ARREST. Buchanan's Claim of Immunity From Arrest is Denied by United States Attorney Snowden Marshall. New York, Dec. 29.—Warrants for the arrest of Congressman Frank Buchanan of Illinois, H. Robert Fowler, former congressman from Illinois, H. B. Martin and Herman Schulze, four of the eight men indicted yesterday for conspiracy to foment strikes in American munition factories, were sent to Washington tonight. Three of the remaining defendants, Frank S. Monnett, former attorney at Chicago; Jacob C. Taylor, president of Labors National Peace council, and David Lamar, appeared voluntarily today in the United States district court and were released in \$5,000 bail each. The eighth man indicted is Franz Van Rintelen, the German agent, who is said to have financed the alleged conspiracy. He is a prisoner of war in England. To Resist Arrest. Each of the four men for whom warrants were issued have announced their intention of resisting arrest. Buchanan has asserted that he is protected by his prerogative as congressman, but this is denied by United States Attorney Snowden Marshall. The warrants will be served in Washington tomorrow morning by United States deputy marshals. Statement by Monnett. Following an arraignment, Mr. Monnett issued from the office of his counsel a statement in which he denied ever having accepted, or received any offer of a German money. He said he never knew either Lamar or Van Rintelen and that as far as he knew neither had any connection with the peace council. Monnett denounced the shipment of munitions to the allies as criminal and illegal. He declared President Wilson was being deceived and that he was anxious to do everything in his power to undeceive him. Denial by Taylor. Taylor also made a statement denying categorically the charges brought against him and also claiming that both Lamar and Van Rintelen were strangers to him. Lamar refused to make any comment. The investigation into the activities of German agents in this country will be resumed by a federal grand jury which will convene here on January 6th.

BUCHANAN'S CLAIM OF IMMUNITY FROM ARREST

Based on a Decision of the Supreme Court in 1908. Washington, Dec. 29.—Representative Buchanan's claim of immunity from arrest is under investigation by the department of justice. A decision of the supreme court in 1908, written by Justice White, now chief justice, is regarded as sufficient authority for official contention that congressmen are entitled to no immunity in criminal prosecutions. In that case Representative Williamson of Oregon was fined and sentenced on Oct. 10, 1905, to ten months' imprisonment upon conviction of conspiracy to obstruct justice. His term did not expire until March 4, 1907, and he protested that he should not be deprived of the right to attend and vote from the ensuing session of congress. Justice White decided against him, holding that the words "treason, felony and breach of the peace" in the constitution to designate exceptions to immunity, should be construed in the same sense as those words were construed in cases commonly understood in England as applied to the parliamentary privilege, and as excluding from the privilege all arrests and prosecutions for criminal offenses and confining the privilege alone to arrests in civil cases.

TWO MEN DROWNED IN BUZZARD'S BAY.

During the Storm of Sunday—Were Caught in a Squall. New Bedford, Mass., Dec. 29.—Albert Bradley and Norton Huxford, employed on the schooner "The Buzzard," were drowned in Buzzard's bay during the storm on Sunday. It was learned here that the two men had gone to pick some floating spars, when a squall carried them out into the bay, and stamped their boat. The boat was driven to the shore of Surragy Neck, Cataumet.

A WORLD COURT FOR JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION

And Settlement of All Questions of International Dispute. New York, Dec. 29.—A world court for judicial investigation and settlement of all questions of international dispute with former President William H. Taft as honorary president and John Hays Hammond as president was formally launched here today. Plans were outlined for a great world court congress to be held in Louisville, Ky., the second week in April. Leading men of this and other countries will be invited to address the congress.

CHARGED WITH BREAKING AND ENTERING AND LARCENY

Earl D. Linnell, Formerly Bookkeeper of Palmer National Bank. Springfield, Mass., Dec. 29.—Earl D. Linnell was indicted by the grand jury today charged with breaking and entering and larceny. It is charged that Linnell attempted to enter the Palmer National bank, of which he was bookkeeper, in Palmer, Nov. 23. It is also charged that he took a shortage of \$700. The indictment was filed and Linnell was arrested on a federal warrant and taken to Boston. Swiss reports state that an operation will soon be performed on the Kaiser's throat.